



The County Seat

News from the Leesburg District

October 2002

From Mark Herring
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Welcome! *The County Seat: News from the Leesburg District* is an electronic newsletter to update you on recent events related to the Loudoun County Government and the actions of the Board of Supervisors, especially as they affect residents in the Leesburg District. I am hopeful *The County Seat* will help you stay informed about your County government and improve communications with me as your elected representative on the Board. I invite you to read the updates in this issue and welcome your comments and opinions.

Mark Herring
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West Nile Virus in Leesburg and Malaria in Loudoun

Recent testing of mosquitoes and birds in Leesburg have shown positive for West Nile Virus. Mosquito traps placed in Lansdowne and along Broad Run captured *Anopheles* mosquitoes that were found to be positive for malaria. The following information has been released by the Loudoun County Health Department.

West Nile virus is spread to birds, humans and other mammals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Two birds found in Leesburg and mosquitoes at two town survey sites tested positive for the virus. Most people who are bitten rarely do get sick, and normally suffer a mild flu-like illness. A very few will suffer more serious illness, such as encephalitis or meningitis.

Malaria is contracted by humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. When a mosquito bites an infected person, it ingests parasites found in the person's blood and can later pass the infection on to another person. Symptoms of malaria include fever and flu-like illness, including chills, headache, muscle aches, tiredness, nausea and vomiting. For most, symptoms usually occur 1 - 2 weeks after being bitten.

Residents can reduce their chance of contracting the above illnesses by reducing breeding grounds around their homes. You can prevent mosquitoes from breeding by turning over or removing containers

around the home where water collects, including old tires, plant trays, buckets, toys, etc. Also, clean birdbaths and wading pools once a week and clean roof gutters and downspout screens regularly, and eliminate standing water on flat roofs.

In addition, the Health Department recommends the following tips to reduce exposure to mosquitoes:

- ✓ Wear long, loose and light-colored clothing.
- ✓ Use insect repellent products with no more than 35 percent DEET for adults and less than 10 percent for children. Follow instructions when using insect repellents.
- ✓ Turn over or remove containers in your yard where water collects, such as old tires, potted plant trays, buckets and toys.
- ✓ Eliminate standing water on tarps or flat roofs.
- ✓ Clean out birdbaths and wading pools once a week.
- ✓ Clean roof gutters and downspout screens regularly.

For more information, you may call the Loudoun County Health Department at 703-777-0236 or visit their website at <http://www.loudoun.gov/depts/health.htm>.



Child Protection Awareness

In light of several recent reports in Leesburg involving a suspicious male in a green van, I would like to remind parents to review safety precautions with their children.

Parents can go to the website of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at www.ncmec.org or call the Center at 1-800-THE -LOST (1-800-843-5678), to obtain "*Personal Safety for Children - A Guide For Parents*", a comprehensive guide containing information on safeguarding children from abduction and exploitation. It also offers tips on speaking with your children about these issues.

If you have any information concerning the incidents in Leesburg, please contact the Leesburg Police Department at 703-771-4500 or call the Leesburg Crime Line at 703-443-TIPS (8477).

Leesburg Area Elementary School Attendance Boundary Changes

Although school attendance boundaries are set by the School Board and not the Board of Supervisors, I thought Leesburg area residents would appreciate information about the need for changes in Leesburg area elementary school boundaries. This need comes as a result of the construction of Frances Hazel Reid Elementary School, located near the intersection of North King Street and the Route 15 Bypass. The school is scheduled to open in August 2003.



The Loudoun County Public Schools planning staff held a meeting on September 11th, for PTA/PTO representatives from Ball's Bluff, Catoclin, Cool Spring, Evergreen Mill, John W. Tolbert, Jr, Leesburg and Lucketts Elementary Schools to discuss the Fall 2003 opening of Frances Hazel Reid Elementary School. The purpose of that meeting was to inform each of the schools of the upcoming boundary meetings and to outline the boundary change process. Another meeting was held on September 25th to review the initial PTA/PTO comments.

The following is the schedule for the boundary process:

Tuesday, October 15 - Community Input Meeting - 6:30 p.m. @ Harper Park Middle School

Wednesday, October 23 - Community Input Meeting - 6:30 p.m. @ Harper Park Middle School

Tuesday, November 12 - Staff Recommendation to School Board for boundary - 6:30 p.m. @ NSO School Board Meeting Room, 102 North Street, NW, Leesburg

Wednesday, November 20 - School Board Public Hearing for boundary - 6:30 p.m. @ John W. Tolbert, Jr. Elementary School

Tuesday, December 10 - School Board Adopts boundary - 6:30 p.m. @ NSO School Board Meeting Room, 102 North Street, NW, Leesburg

If you have any questions about this process or would like demographic, enrollment and other information to evaluate and comment on draft boundary plans, or to develop your own boundary plan for consideration, please contact LCPS Department Of Planning and Legislative Services at phone 703-771-6436 or email: lcpsplan@loudoun.k12.va.us. Contact information for your School Board representatives (Leesburg District- Fred Flemming and Catoclin District- Geary M. Higgins) are posted on the schools website at: <http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/schoolboard>.

Zoning Ordinance Update

The Planning Commission continues to conduct work sessions and is expected to conclude its work in mid-October and forward their recommendations to the Board at a joint meeting on October 15th at 6:30pm. Additional notices will be mailed to property owners and the Board will be holding a public hearing on the proposed ordinance changes and remapping. The date of the public hearing has not yet been scheduled, but is expected to be in early November.

Sycolin Road Widening

The Town of Leesburg and the Virginia Department of Transportation held a citizen information meeting on the Sycolin Road Widening Project on October 1st. The project is partially funded through proffers, developer contributions and Loudoun County Gas Tax. The estimated cost is \$5,540,000. The following schedule was outlined during the meeting:

Evaluation of the comments Winter 2002
Begin Land Acquisition Spring 2003
Advertise for Construction Bids Fall 2004
Construction Complete Fall/Winter 2005



Additional information about the project can be obtained through the Town's Department of Engineering and Public Works.



Flu Shots Available in Leesburg

The Loudoun County Health Department will be offering influenza and Pneumovax immunization to high-risk individuals beginning October 1, 2002. The vaccine is available on a walk-in basis Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the Community Health Center, 102 Heritage Way, N.E., located in the Wal-Mart Shopping Center. The influenza vaccine will be opened up to include the general public on October 15, 2002.

Those at high risk include people 50 years and older, people with chronic pulmonary or cardiovascular disease, including asthma; people with chronic metabolic diseases, kidney dysfunction, blood disorders or immune system problems; as well as residents and staff of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities. In addition, women who will be in the second or third trimester of pregnancy during the influenza season and children and teenagers (aged 6 months to 18 years) who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and therefore might be at risk for developing Reye syndrome after influenza infection.

The cost of the influenza vaccine is \$12.00. The Health Department will bill Medicare or Medicaid for residents that bring in their Medicare or Medicaid cards. For more information on this season's influenza supply, call the Loudoun County Health Department at 703-777-0236.

I would like to hear from you! For opinion or comment, please contact:

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